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10 December 1964

DDI 5056-6-4

Mr. William C. Foster
Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bill:

I have given consideration to your memorandum of December 3rd concerning disarmament suggestions which might be taken up with the USSR. I have not had an opportunity to talk to Secretary Rusk since his recent discussions with Mr. Gromyko and until I do so, it is impossible for me to make a judgment as to whether the present time is appropriate to open a dialogue on disarmament with the new Soviet leaders.

In the absence of specific indications confirming the appropriateness of disarmament discussions at the present time, I would conclude from our observations of the current activities of the new Soviet leaders that they would, if anything, be premature. We observe that the leadership is heavily involved with internal organizational problems, in discussions with the Eastern European satellites, and in meeting the problems caused by the disarray in the international Communist movement. I believe their preoccupation with these and other equally important matters forecloses their serious consideration of disarmament problems at this time and hence a dialogue would result in indications from us as to our position, but no response from them.

I observe that there are differences of opinion within the government on some of the proposed subjects outlined in your paper, and it seems logical to me that agreed positions be forged before discussions with the other side are commenced.

For these reasons I suggest that no action be taken along the lines suggested in your Memorandum to the Principals until after Secretaries Rusk and McNamara have returned from Europe and we have had an opportunity for protracted discussion on each of the points proposed in your memorandum.

Sincerely,

[(Signed)]

John A. McCone

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23 November 1964

Dear Bill:

With respect to your 14 October memorandum concerning an approach to India on the problem of nuclear weapons, I have grave doubts as to the feasibility of this approach at this time.

I believe that nuclear proliferation is one of the most serious problems which confronts the world today. However, I do not think that the problem can be solved in a satisfactory manner through bilateral arrangements between the United States and any specific country.

Therefore, it seems to me that the problem of Indian development of a nuclear weapons capability must be considered as part of the over-all proliferation problem.

The President has recently appointed a senior Advisory Committee headed by Mr. Roswell Gilpatric to make recommendations to him on this very important subject. My suggestion is that the 14 November paper be deferred pending the receipt of the Gilpatric Committee's view. It is very possible that the problem of Indian nuclear weapons may find its solution in the context of this broader issue.

Sincerely,

/s/ JOHN

John A. McCone
Director

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WILLIAM C. FESTER
The Honorable William C. Foster
Director, U.S. Arms Control & Disarmament Agency
Washington, D.C.

Originated by: O/DDI
Revised by: [REDACTED]:MMW

(23Nov64)

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DATE: 14 Dec

TO: Mr Cline (P)
FROM: H C
SUBJECT:

REMARKS:

A good example of Mr. McCone's method in turning aside ACDAT's attempt to get the Principals to approve talks with the Russians on arms control items.

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